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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/576,538	04/20/2006	Terence Alexander Bengte		4438

7590  
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EXAMINER

WOMACK, DOMINIQUE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/576,538

**Applicant(s)**

BENGE ET AL.

**Examiner**

DOMINIQUE WOMACK

**Art Unit**

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2006.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 April 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-893)  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20060420

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear how the cover and body can be arranged to define a clearance section. Furthermore, it is unclear what defines the end of the lifting movement of the cover relative to the body.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 1-3, 5, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Diamond et al. [US Pat No 5,804,237].**
5. Regarding claim 1, Diamond discloses a pressurized can (Figures 2a-2c) comprising a sealed vessel (Fig 2b), a bead (Fig. 2a, #23), a product confined within a sealed vessel defining a headspace (Fig. 2b-2d & col. 5, lines 10-32), wherein headspace in fluid communication with bead #23. Figures 2a-2c show a can end #20

where the height of the headspace is higher at bead #23 than at concave surface #21.

The bead #23 is interpreted to read on the claimed access region.

6. Regarding claims 2 and 3, the concave surface (Fig. 2a-2c, #21) is interpreted to read on the claimed attraction feature.

7. Regarding claims 5 and 10-11, Diamond discloses in Figure 2a a sealed vessel that comprises an a body (#22) having an opening for inserting a product and a cover (#22) that is arranged to seal and cover the opening after the product is inserted.

8. Regarding claim 9, Diamond discloses a process for manufacturing a pressurized can comprising

- a. Taking an empty can;
- b. Filling it with a sterilized food; and
- c. Seaming the can end onto the can body (col. 5, lines 10-20).

9. The can is pressurized with liquid nitrogen (col. 4, lines 13-19 and col. 5, lines 21-32).

10. The cover has a design that maximized the height of the headspace at the point of first opening as shown in figures 2a-2c.

11. **Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gueritey [US Pat No 1,443,682].**

12. Regarding claim 7, Gueritey discloses a tin can and a cover in a screw thread arrangement (lines 8-22). The cover and can arrangement is such that the cover engages the open end or edge of the can body and the cover is snugly retained on the

body and contact between the body end and the cover is maintained. When the cover is to be removed it will be rotated in a reverse direction and the threads of the cover will slide along the corresponding threads on the can body whereby the cover will be moved outwardly ready for convenient removal (lines 86-110). This arrangement is interpreted to read on the cover lifting a predefined distance during unscrewing of the cover from the can body.

13. Regarding claim 8, Gueritey discloses that the cover will be moved outwardly ready for convenient removal (lines 105-110). This outward movement is interpreted to provide a clearance section once the cover is released from the can body.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

16. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**17. Claims 4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diamond et al. [US Pat No 5,804,237] in view of Rayzal [US Pat No 3,814,279].**

18. Diamond is relied upon as above with respect to claim 3.

19. Regarding claim 4, Diamond fails to teach a cover wherein the attraction feature is defined by a series of progressively deepening beads, which are arranged to follow the form of a dome extending towards the inside of the sealed vessel.

20. Regarding claim 4, Rayzal discloses a lid for a metal can (Figure 4) that has progressively deepening steps that form a concave curve (col. 4, lines 21-24). Rayzal discloses that a lid of this design does not pop suddenly during the sterilization process (col. 3, lines 35-37).

21. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to use the lid of Rayzal with the can body of Diamond in order to a sealed can. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to form the sealed can with the

lid of Rayzal because the lid of Rayzal does not pop suddenly during the sterilization process.

22. Regarding claim 12, Diamond discloses in Figure 2a a sealed vessel that comprises an a body (#22) having an opening for inserting a product and a cover (#22) that is arranged to seal and cover the opening after the product is inserted.

**23. Claims 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Diamond et al. [US Pat No 5,804,237] in view of Wobser [US Pat No 5,135,124].**

24. Diamond is relied upon as above with respect to claim 5.

25. Diamond fails to teach a cover and can body in a screw thread arrangement and wherein the screw thread arrangement is adapted to allow the cover to be lifted relative to the body before the can is allowed to vent to atmospheric pressure.

26. Wobser discloses a container and cover with a screw thread arrangement. The arrangement disclosed by Wobser allows for the cover to be rotated relative to the container a predetermined distance and then the internal pressure within the container is vented (col. 4, lines 35-46). The arrangement prevents the removal of the cap during the venting process which ensures the cap will not become a projectile (col. 4, lines 46-50).

27. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to use screw thread arrangement of Wobser in the construction of the sealed can of Diamond in order to provide a can wherein the can is vented before the cover is

completely removed. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to provide a can wherein the can is vented before the cover is completely removed because this type of can removes the dangers involved with the cover becoming a projectile during venting.

### ***Conclusion***

28. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DOMINIQUE WOMACK whose telephone number is (571) 270-7366. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-5:00pm.

29. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

30. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.



31. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David R. Sample/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/D. W./  
Dominique Womack  
Examiner, Art Unit 1794

10 March 2009